Return on Drugs

1954. SHRI H. HANUMANTHAPPA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 421 given in the Rajya Sabha on 27th February, 1992 and state:

(a) what is the return on net-worth or capital employed, which is taken by the manufacturers of price decontrolled bulk drugs;

(b) what is the return which is considered reasonable by Government in such cases;

(c) what is the return taken in the case of Glybenclamide, Pentoxyfyline bulk durgs used for Decadurabolin, Methyl Testostorone etc.;

(d) whether the prices of such formulations would be very high, if the prices of concerned bulk drugs do not follow any discipline;

(e) what is the sales turn over of each drug and what are the leading formulations of each; and

(f) what was the price of each before decontrol and what is the present price?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI CHINTA MOHAN): (a) to (c) No specific return on net worth or capital employed has been prescribed under DPCO, 1987, which is to be taken by the manufacturers of price decontrolled bulk drugs.

(d) Whenever any usual price increase appears to be unreasonable, companies are asked to justify the increase in the prices. In case adequate justification does not exist, companies are prevailed upon to reduce the price in the overall interest of the consumer.

(e) Sales turn-over of individual bulk drug is not monitored.

(f) The information will be collected and laid on the Table of the House.

1955. [*Transferred to the 15th May, 1992*].

Sale of holding by U.C.C.

1956. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Union Carbide Corporation, Bhopal has decided to sell its holdings upto 17 million dollars; and

(b) whether Government have taken any action against U.C.C. from selling its assets in India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI CHINTA MOHAN): (a) and (b) No, Sir. As per information furnished by a firm of Solicitors, 16,525,000 shares of Union Carbide Corporation in Union Carbide India Limited have been pledged to the Bhopal Hospital Trust to facilitate construction and operation of an hospital for gas victims in Bhopal, which, under the directions of the Supreme Court in its Order dated 3-10-1991, has to be financed by Union Carbide Corporation/Union Carbide India Limited.

Setting up Gas Cracker Complex in Rajasthan

1957. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Minister of Industry has received any written request dated 2nd June, 1990 from the Chief Minister of Rajasthan for setting up a minimum economic size Gas Cracker Complex at some suitable location in Rajasthan, if so, what are the details thereof;

(b) whether it is also technically more logical to recover C, 2/C. 3 the entire gas from the HBJ pipeline before supplying to fertilizer/power plants; and

(c) if so, what is the present stage of consideration by when, final decision in this regard is likely to be taken by his

Ministry and also indicating whether there is a good scope for an OLEFIN Complex in this State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI CHINTA MOHAN): (a) and (c) Yes, Sir. A communication was received from the Chief Minister of Rajasthan in June, 90 for setting up an Office Complex in Rajasthan based on gas from HBJ pipeline.

Establishment of Petro-Chemical Complexes is considered based on demand/supply position of petrochemical products, availability of feedstock and other techno economic aspects.

In view of the above considerations, the proposal for olefin Complex in Rajasthan was not considered feasible.

(b) Yes, Sir, depending on the location and demand.

Restriction on Export of Molasses

1958. SHRI P. UPENDRA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have put restrictions on the export of molasses resulting in the loss of valuable foreign exchange; and

(b) what are the reasons for placing such curbs, when there is surplus stock of molasses in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI CHINTA MOHAN): (a) and (b) Export of Molasses is permissible subject to provisions of Molasses Control Order. While giving approvals for export outside, care is taken by Molasses Controllers to ensure that domestic requirements within the State and other deficit States are met.

Overcharging by drugs companies

1959. SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR SAHU: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred question 2059 given in Rajya Sabha on 12th December, 1991 and state:

(a) what are the details regarding company, product, date and extent of overcharging of prices fixed by Government which were brought to the notice of his Ministry under DPCO, 1979;

(b) whether it is a fact that details furnished in the Rajya Sabha Unstarred Question 670 answered on 28th November, 1991 are incomplete and that only 4 cases are in courts;

(c) in how many cases companies have been let off after prima facie notices;

(d) whether it is a fact that several cases were not pursued as the producers settled their claims with the connivence of bureaucrats of his Ministry; and

(e) what is the present position in each case and when was the last reminder issued and why criminal case have not been filed against any producer so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI CHINTA MOHAN): (a) and (b) Requisite details were given in annexure to reply to Unstarred Question No. 6655 answered on 8th April, 1992.

(c) The question of any company being let off does not arise and all efforts are being made to effect the recoveries, as legally permissible, as soon as possible.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) The process of determination of the final liabilities of the companies in the background of the Supreme Court Judgement is still in progress. In a number of cases the companies have already been informed that if they do not discharge their liabilities, the Government will be left with no alternative but to make recovery as arrears of land revenue, through the Collector concerned, alongwith interest from the date of default.

Assessment of Liability of M/s. Hoechst

1960. SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR SAHU: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) in what matter and on what basis the liability of M/s Hoechst was assessed at Rs. 3.19 crores upto August, 1987 by the Special Team by reducing Rs. 88 crores worth of liability to Rs. 3.19 crores;

(b) whether it is a fact that besides set off it is falsification of figures which